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# Articles in Today's Clips

**Tuesday, August 12, 2008**

(Be sure to maximize your screen to read your clips)

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## 11:25 am: Authorities probe toddler's death

August 11, 2008 11:28 am

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MANISTEE — Michigan State Police troopers are investigating the death of a 2-year-old boy.

Troopers from the Manistee post went to a residence in Stronach at about 2:20 a.m. Monday on a call of an unresponsive child. The child was in his parents' bed.

Troopers and emergency personnel attempted CPR at the scene. The child was taken to West Shore in Medical Center in Manistee, where he was pronounced dead.

Police wouldn't identify the child or the parents. An investigation is continuing, and an autopsy is expected to be scheduled, according to a police statement.

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# Kelly M. Arthurs faces second-degree murder charge in traffic death of her 8-year-old daughter

by Shannon Murphy and Bryn Mickle | The Flint Journal  
Tuesday August 12, 2008, 9:23 AM



Arthurs

**FLINT, Michigan --** A mother faces the possibility of life in prison for a cocaine-fueled car crash that killed one of her twin daughters. Genesee County Prosecutor David Leyton today charged Kelly M. Arthurs, 41, in a warrant with second-degree murder for a March 10 single-car crash in Mundy Township. Arthurs and her 8-year-old daughters were returning from a family gathering at the Fenton Hotel when she lost control of her Jeep Cherokee on Fenton Road near McCall Road and smashed into a utility pole. Investigators believe Arthurs was high on cocaine when she tried to negotiate a curve in the road at nearly 70 mph despite the 45 mph posted speed limit. The crash killed her daughter Kelsey Jo Caswell and left her other daughter, Kasey, with a serious head injury. "Drugs can cause people to do terrible things, and that's what happened here. They can overtake you and turn you into some kind of monster," said Leyton. Arthurs had fresh needle tracks on her arms after the crash and had been drinking at the Fenton Hotel, registering a blood-alcohol level of 0.07 when police tested her -- a fraction below the state limit of 0.08, the level at which a person is considered drunk under the law. Leyton called Arthurs' disregard for her daughters' safety "reprehensible." "Ms. Arthurs gave us no choice but to charge her," said Leyton, adding that it is an awful case. Arthurs' attorney could not be reached for comment Monday afternoon.

Along with the second-degree murder charge -- a rarity in vehicular deaths -- Arthurs also faces charges of operating under the influence causing death, a 15-year felony, and operating under the influence causing serious injury, a five-year felony.

Asked why it took more than five months for Arthurs to be charged, Leyton pointed to a 4-inch-thick case file on his desk.

"Vehicular homicide cases are very time-consuming," said Leyton.

The Genesee County Fatal Alcohol Crash Team had to reconstruct what happened, while Mundy Township police investigators had to find witnesses to retrace how Arthurs spent the hours leading up to the crash.

In court filings for termination of Arthurs' parental rights for her surviving daughter, officials said Arthurs admitted she used cocaine hours before the crash while her daughters were at school and that she had been using cocaine for two years.

The girls' father told investigators that he saw a syringe in her purse at the crash scene.

The case has generated numerous calls to the prosecutor's office from people who wanted to help the surviving twin.

"They just want to reach out and hug her," said Leyton.

Arthurs was expected to turn herself in for arraignment on the criminal charges today.

# **Alcona County authorities searching for missing man**

Posted by [The Bay City Times](#) August 12, 2008 10:20AM

The Alcona County Sheriff's Office is searching for an elderly man suffering from Alzheimer's disease.

Police said Elwood Metheringham left his home on Barlow Road north of Lincoln at about 7 p.m. Monday. He was last seen driving his white 1994 Oldsmobile Silhouette. The vehicle has a World War II license plate with the number 8GUW7.

Metheringham, 81, is about 5 feet 7 inches tall and weighs 187 pounds. He was last seen wearing a blue sweater, blue pants, a tan hat and black shoes. He is traveling with a black Labrador retriever, police said.

Anyone with information about Metheringham is asked to call local police or the Alcona County Sheriff's Office at (989) 724-6271.

# **Family of disabled woman files wrongful death lawsuit**

Posted by [The Bay City Times](#)

August 12, 2008 09:35AM

The family of a mentally disabled woman who fled from a group home in Bay City and wound up dead in an abandoned house in Saginaw has sued a social services agency, the group home and a worker.

Rebecca Mullins, 57, walked out of the Brookwood Adult Foster Care Home at 909 Murphy St. on Sept. 21, and police found her body in an abandoned home at 326 S. 10th St. in Saginaw nearly three months later.

Mullins died of dehydration after falling through a rotted floor in the home and becoming entangled by her knee and ankle in a rafter, according to the lawsuit, filed in Bay County Circuit Court. Mullins' family is seeking more than \$25,000 from Saginaw Bay Human Services, Brookwood LLC and the caregiver on duty when Mullins ran off.

Mullins, whom family members have said had the cognitive capacity of a child, had a history of running from the home. A "behavior treatment plan" drafted for her in 1992 outlined the "history and potential to run away" and prescribed that staff at the foster care home should remain in the same room with her except when she used the bathroom.

Family members are seeking compensation for wrongful death, pain and suffering and loss of the companionship of their family member. No response has yet been filed by the defendants in the lawsuit.

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# Area man faces life in prison for assault

**By Bill Mullaly, Daily News Correspondent**

**Hillsdale Daily News**

*Posted Aug 11, 2008 @ 02:58 PM*

Quincy, Mich. — Joseph Roberts is facing a life prison sentence after a Thursday night domestic dispute.

Branch County Sheriff's Office deputies were called to 1137 Jonesville Road, Quincy Township by Jamie Brown, who told d Coldwater, climbed through the bedroom window and attacked her.

Brown, who is six months pregnant, said Roberts refused to leave, grabbed her by the hair and then hit her several times in

During the struggle she said he flipped her backward over a coffee table, pulled down a DVD and damaged it before smash the wall.

She also claimed he then punched her four more times.

Roberts told deputies he did grab her by the hair but denied other claims, according to the probable cause affidavit. He deni window, saying he used his key.

Brown was not seriously injured.

The office of Branch County prosecutor charged Roberts with home invasion, a five-year felony, interference with a commur felony, and two 93-day misdemeanors — domestic violence and malicious destruction of property. Because Roberts has a r Detroit for breaking and entering in 1991, and kidnapping and unarmed robbery in 1995, the maximum terms on the two felc 15 years, respectively.

Bond was set at \$35,000, cash or surety, with a preliminary examination set for Aug.11.

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# Woman tells of threats by ex-husband

Posted by [By Sarah Harbison | Jackson Citizen Patriot](#) August 12, 2008  
08:28AM

Terrified and hyperventilating, Melissa Nelson called 911 from inside her trailer home that was filling with natural gas, saying that her then-husband was threatening to kill her.

"He just keeps making threats saying how I'm not going to live," Nelson said to a dispatcher, referring to her husband, Donald Nelson.

The recording of the call from Melissa Nelson — now Melissa Kardashio after the couple's divorce — was played to a jury Monday.

She placed the call about 1:45 p.m. Dec. 27. It lasted about 13 minutes.

The trial for Donald Nelson of Blackman Township began Monday before Jackson County Circuit Judge John McBain. Nelson is charged with attempted murder, felonious assault and second-offense domestic violence.

Kardashio testified that when she arrived home from work about 1:30 p.m. that day, the house smelled of natural gas and she suspected Nelson was intoxicated.

Police reported his blood-alcohol level was 0.35, more than four times the legal driving limit of 0.08.

She said Nelson told her she interrupted what he had planned to do that day, implying his plans were to commit suicide.

Kardashio said Nelson eventually became irate, threatening to kill her and attempting to light two lighters near her face while she was on the phone.

When officers arrived, they shut off the gas line. They then entered the house and carried out Kardashio.

When questioned by defense attorney George Lyons, Kardashio said she was aware that Nelson had a history of depression and suicide in his family. She said she knew he battled depression at the time.



Kardashio was the only witness to take the stand Monday. The trial was to resume today.

BATTLE CREEK ENQUIRER

August 12, 2008

## **Nursing Clinic extends hours**

The Nursing Clinic of Battle Creek at 34 Green St. has extended further its evening hours of operation in order to help working families who do not have adequate health insurance access free medical care.

The free clinic is now open until 8 p.m. on Mondays and until 7 p.m. on Wednesdays through September. No appointment is necessary. Call 962-6565 for more information.

Additionally, a Spanish-English medical translator will be available during the daytime hours and Wednesday evenings. The new service is a result of collaboration with the Latino/Hispanic Community Project.

# Early childhood education key to curbing dropout rates, boosting long-term economic development, economist says

by Ashley A. Smith | The Flint Journal

Tuesday August 12, 2008, 10:14 AM

**FLINT, Michigan** -- Genesee County schools are looking to curb high school drop out rates and increase economic development by starting childhood education as early as 1 year old.

The Genesee County Great Start Collaborative held a breakfast presentation this morning featuring Federal Reserve Bank of Minneapolis Economist Rob Grunewald on the benefits of implementing an early childhood development program for children before they head to preschool.

"The next dollar invested in early childhood education will yield the highest return," Grunewald said. "The brain needs stimulation from the environment, it's the only organ not fully formed at birth."

Grunewald said about 85 percent of a child's brain is formed by age 3 or 4, and that development can be a make or break factor in their futures.

In St. Paul, Minn., an early childhood pilot program provides scholarships to about 1,200 children for a program that educates 3-year-olds and parent mentoring for 1-year-olds.

The program costs about \$15 million through endowment funds.

A similar program in Genesee County is in the early stages with no definitive plans on costs, implementation or a start date.

"It's a slow process because it's a huge project," said Beth Hackett, coordinator for Genesee County Great Start Collaborative. "We are working on (identifying) our early childhood problems. The financial piece is that once we show what the educational gaps are we can identify where to bring in resources."

A report on early childhood educational gaps in the county won't be ready until September, Hackett said.

The county has about 6,000 kids under the age of 5 and about 30 percent of those children are living in poverty, Hackett said.

Grunewald said the program identifies at-risk children who grow up in poverty or low-income households because their success brings in higher

rate of return by preventing high school drop-outs, higher tax revenues through successful employment and fewer incarcerations.

"Areas growing economically are growing because of a ready workforce for information and technology jobs," Hackett said. "We have a population we would like to get into these jobs and the key is educational programs."



## Seeking help for kids

### Baldwin Center struggles to fill back-to-school needs

By RANDAL YAKY  
Of The Oakland Press

This year -- more than ever, with Michigan in a recession -- donations to charities are down all over the state, but that doesn't mean the need isn't there.

That said, the Baldwin Center in Pontiac is asking citizens from across the region for donations to help children in need.

The center is seeking donations of school supplies and backpacks for its annual backpack giveaway. The donations will be distributed first to participants of Baldwin's summer enrichment program, then to area students, beginning at Baldwin's Back to School Yard Party on Friday. Last year, more than 300 backpacks were distributed.

"Coming to school with all the necessary supplies helps a child start the school year out right. We want to help make sure every child arrives at school ready to learn, and we also want to stress to the child how important getting an education is to their future success," said Baldwin Executive Director Lisa Machesky.

Baldwin is expecting higher demand this year because of the area's economic situation.

Items needed include erasers, calculators, folders, small dictionaries or thesauruses, ink pens, highlighters, colored pencils, bigger pencils for kindergarten children, loose leaf paper, scissors and zipper cases for pencils that will fit in binders and backpacks. Citizens also may sponsor a child for \$75.

Contact staff writer Randal Yakey at (248) 745-4631 or [randal.yakey@oakpress.com](mailto:randal.yakey@oakpress.com).

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Brookings Events

August 12, 2008

## **Poverty and Income in 2007: A Look at the New Census Data and What the Numbers Mean**

A Center on Children and Families Event

Tuesday, August 26, 2008, 2:00 pm — 3:30 pm

The Brookings Institution, Falk Auditorium, 1775 Massachusetts Ave, NW,  
Washington, DC

The U.S. Census Bureau will release new data on poverty and family income for 2007 on August 26. Poverty declined every year between 1993 and 2000, reaching its lowest level ever for black children, but then increased during the recession year of 2001 as well as in 2002, 2003, and 2004. The rate then declined slightly in both 2005 and 2006. Given the weak growth of the economy in 2007, analysts are watching to see whether poverty, especially child poverty, continued to decline in 2007.

On the day the Census poverty report is released, the Brookings Center on Children and Families will hold its sixth annual briefing to discuss the new figures and their implications for families and policy-makers. A panel of experts will offer their reactions to the Census report and their perspectives on the significance of the new data.

After the program, participants will take audience questions.